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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 79 606 a/scho	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 99118064.7-2305-
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire United States Surgical Corporation	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract ☐ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

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REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 11 8064

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
✓ D,A	US 5 707 380 A (HINCHLIFFE PETER W J ET AL) 13 January 1998 (1998-01-13) * column 4, line 56 - column 5, line 16 * * column 6, line 22 - column 7, line 52 * * figures 1,3A,4 *	1,2,4,8,9	A61B17/115 A61B17/11 A61B17/128
✓ P,A	EP 0 885 595 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP) 23 December 1998 (1998-12-23) * the whole document *	1-13	
○ A	US 5 762 256 A (ALESI JR THOMAS W ET AL) 9 June 1998 (1998-06-09) * column 10, line 26 - line 57; figures 4,5 *	1-3	
✓ A	US 5 443 198 A (VIOLA FRANK J ET AL) 22 August 1995 (1995-08-22) * column 7, line 7 - line 41; figure 1 *	1,2	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 1 November 2000	Examiner Ducreau, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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